

"THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

THE LEADING NEWSPAPER IN THE FAR EAST.

The Hongkong Telegraph has just completed the first decade of its existence.

On the 15th June, 1881, the first issue was sent forth.

The platform then adopted was "to accurately and fairly represent the feelings and expressed wishes of the community." That is still our aim.

The method adopted was "to publish everything that it is good for the public to know, and interesting to read." That is still our method.

Several important improvements in the printing department are contemplated, and the size of the Telegraph will shortly be increased by several columns, for advertising purposes.

The Telegraph aims at giving the earliest, freshest, and most accurate local and general news, and it generally gets there.

The staff consists of four dukes and a prize fighter, who speak all the dead languages and several that ought to die.

The common reporters have orders to follow the Telegraph men and see where the news is lying concealed. Our contemporaries generally do the rest of the lying unconcealed.

Our ten years' record shows more fact and fun to the square inch than could be found in all the other papers if they lived to be a thousand.

Public scandals, "fishy" deeds, official venality, "log-rolling," and indeed everything calculated to injure the interests of the community receive scant mercy at our hands.

Authenticated communications likely to interest intelligent men are always welcome.

Those venturing petty individual grievances are led to the goal.

Subscriptions must be prepaid—we have \$200,000 worth of bad debts on our books already, and we are going to shut down on credit—it takes money to buy land.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

Forwarded regularly to any address on receipt of the money and postage.

\$24 a year.

Our subscribers flood the post with testimonials more flattering than a photographer's remarks to his clients.

One wrote only a few days ago:—I like the Telegraph. It is brave, bright, and breezy. It exposes frauds in velvet and shams in ermine, no matter what the consequence may be.

The repression of the troubles in the North is attributed by Li Hung-chang to our peaceful influence.

A good judge says:—It's the best tonic against Mongolian malaria and the Mongolianized European variety I know.

Our mail issue contains the cream of the daily issues' literary and artistic records, and should be sent home by every European resident, instead of only nine-tenths of them as at present.

The Hongkong Telegraph is the only thoroughly independent paper this side of Jordan.

It is the liveliest and most readable paper within nine thousand miles, and the only one that owns an office goat.

It has a circulation wherever its contemporaries go, and in 1247 places where they don't. This paper comes out at 5.30 p.m., so that the subscribers see it the same evening.

Our advertising rates are reasonable, and our only fear is that the subscribers can't leave the fascinating literary matter to read trade announcements.

The Telegraph is highly recommended for Missionaries, Sunday Schools, and private entertainments.

Its only disadvantage is that it makes people doubly regret to die.

But their regrets are needless. Our circulation is great.

Criticism is a necessity. What is not open to criticism is too good for this world, and what is open to criticism is criticised in the Telegraph. If the result is not improvement, it is not our fault.

"Salt is what makes potatoes nasty if you don't have it," and criticism is what makes a publication washy and wearisome if it isn't there.

No rose is without a thorn, but some thorns have no roses, especially in Hongkong, and we wish to secure the removal of such thorns to the burning fire furnace.

We can offer several practical suggestions to advertisers desirous of whispering in the ear of the public.

We make a speciality of paragraph notices which a special literary genius concocts (free of charge) so cunningly that nobody knows the pill is there until it's taken.

All the crowned heads in China, Japan, Siam, and other empires take this paper in.

We are regularly intimated in Russia, Spain, and other despotic territories.

We cater for all classes, but champion the cause of right and justice only.

It doesn't always pay—but we are not running the paper for profit.

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"THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

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Hongkong, 4th May, 1891.



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The purest ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in the manufacture throughout.

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We continue to supply large bottles as heretofore, free of Extra Charge, to those of our Customers who prefer to have them of the ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS, whenever practicable, are despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

FOR COAST PORTS, Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Packages and Expenses when received in good order.

Counterfoil Order Books supplied on application.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is, "DISPENSARY, HONGKONG," And all signed messages addressed thus will receive prompt attention.

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SODA WATER
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POTASH WATER
SELTZER WATER
LITHIA WATER
SARSAPARILLA WATER
TONIC WATER
GINGER ALE
GINGERADE.

No Credit given for bottles that look dirty, or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Water, as such bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,
Hongkong, China, and Manila.

For Sale.

NOW READY.



[PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.]

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PRICE THREE DOLLARS.

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"THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" Office, Pedder's Hill, Hongkong, January 10th, 1891.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

SUBSCRIBERS TO "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY REMINDED THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

BIRTH.

At 39, Broadway, Shanghai, on the 28th June, the wife of W. H. LUNT, of a daughter.

DEATH.

On the 26th June, at 11, Peking Road, Shanghai, in her seventeenth year, GWENDOLINE STRICKLAND, the beloved eldest daughter of Charles and Emily Dallas.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1891.

THE PROPOSED CHINESE CONSULATE.

It is ever our morning contemporary deserved her title of "Granny" she certainly did so this morning when she gave vent to such a screech of indignation as was sufficient to awaken her sister "Sally Gamp" from her grave in the West. The old lady was "look bad" over the innovation of the establishment of a Chinese Consulate in the Colony, and perhaps, owing to the unique position which Hongkong occupies in the Eastern world, it may at the first glance appear to a few besides our venerable contemporary that the appointment of a Chinese Consul here would, in a manner, strike at the freedom of the port and, so to speak, drive another nail into the coffin of this colony's independence. More careful consideration of the matter, however, leads us to the conclusion that the appointment will have no such baneful influence, and that it will cut both ways. No matter how his nationals may rally round the local representative of the Celestial Empire, both he and they are subject to the laws of this colony, which we can safely rely upon as being sufficient to meet any possible attempt at unlawful combination amongst the native section of the community. Besides, a Chinese consulate has long been established in the neighbouring colony of Singapore, and found to work well, and it is difficult to perceive how it could continue to be refused here with any grace or equity. Moreover, not only should a capable Chinese consul prove an important factor towards contributing to the preservation of law and order amongst the major portion of the community, but he must prove to be a useful and ready medium by means of which the colonial administration can communicate with the high Provincial authorities of Canton. Extradition matters on both sides will be much facilitated by such a channel of communication being available. Take as an instance the *Namoa* catastrophe, it is too much to assert that, had a Chinese Consulate been in existence here when that unfortunate disaster happened, the perpetrators of the outrage would in all probability have been captured, if not red-handed, at least much sooner than they were. Or, again, in the grievous Kowloon gambling evil in regard to which the authorities of this colony, to their discredit, are exhibiting such shameful lukewarmness, this crying evil could be at once brought to the notice of the Viceroy in a more effectual manner than by the circumlocutory methods to which our red-tape official element are so firmly attached. Another phase of this new departure, which we specially commend to the attention of the official *Yellow Rag*, is that it cannot fail to subject the shortcomings of our official element to the scrutiny of a class specially practised in the arts of discrimination and, for the matter of that, dissimulation. In this connection it is lamentable to ponder over what any intelligent Chinaman must think of the vaunted administrative capabilities of British colonies, when he comes to study the intelligence and capacity of the official class controlling this colony at the present time of its existence, and when he comes to compare the same with the rigid system of qualification exacted in his own country. Certainly Hongkong during the whole period of its existence under British rule has never presented a more mediocre picture of mental indigence, of incapacity, and of demoralization than it does in its executive at the present moment. Hardly a single officer in the colony in his proper position; more than half its official staff on leave, gallivanting at large about the world, while their positions are filled by inexperienced subordinates; and the public till, notwithstanding the remonstrance of the unofficial representatives' dictates, is left open for them to help themselves to almost at will and certainly beyond the pale of decency. This is no exaggerated picture, a *Max O'Rell* or *Tao-Ping-Lung* or any observant Celestial will see its correctness without trouble, and without difficulty be able to apply a moral, which with a Chinaman will be that, much as China is abused for its inefficiency and jobbery, in these as well as in feebleness and in downright deceit and audacity the present one-horse administration of Hongkong will take the cake. Look for

a moment to that most important of all departments, the legal one, and the Attorney General who is the adviser of the Government and the framer of our laws. The Home Government some two years since after mature deliberation arrived at the conclusion that it was an absolute necessity for the well-being of the colony that the Attorney General should devote his entire time to his work, consequently the emoluments of this office were increased to provide for this—and Mr. GOODMAN was appointed to the post. The Attorney General is bitten by the general official epidemic, and fits his post on every convenient opportunity. We are within the mark if we put Mr. GOODMAN down as having done about four months' work as Attorney General on the new system during the whole period he has held the post. Urgent public needs should be paramount and should influence an official occupying so responsible a post, but one might as well expect to find the philosopher's stone in this benighted colony, as to find amongst the Hongkong official league any high conceptions of the kind indicated. The whole purpose and intent of the Home Government are defeated by the Attorney Generalship of this colony being worked on the condemned basis, and the public interests are cast to the winds with impunity and looked upon with complaisance by an incompetent and by no means disinterested executive. Yet another view of the appointment of a Chinese consul presents itself and we have finished. It may be assumed that part of his duty will be to carefully watch for native criminals escaping to this colony or using the colony as a nefarious basis. In this he will probably be assisted by an efficient staff, and this will not only tend towards diminishing both the resident criminal classes, but will likewise tend to check criminals utilising Hongkong as of yore for the criminal classes will quickly understand the new agency set in motion, while at same time it will also have its effect, it is to be hoped, in reducing serious crime in the neighbouring province by making its detection more speedy as well as more certain.

TELEGRAMS.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA AND THE BRITISH FLEET.

LONDON, June 24th.

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria is visiting Fiume out of compliment to the British Mediterranean squadron and while there will inspect the fleet.

SARAWAK AND BRUNEL.

Sir James Ferguson in the House of Commons stated that the report of the British Consul regarding the dispute between Sarawak and Brunel was being considered and that the rights of His Highness the Sultan would be respected in the ultimate settlement.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA AND THE BRITISH FLEET.

June 25th.

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria has given a banquet at Fiume to the officers of the British Mediterranean squadron at which the Emperor proposed the toast of Her Majesty the Queen and also the Royal Navy. No reference was made to any political matters.

MR. PARNELL AND MRS. O'SHEA.

June 26th.

Mr. Parnell M.P. was married to Mrs. O'Shea privately at the office of the Registrar.

ENGLAND AND THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

July 2nd.

The *Times* states that England is no party to the Triple Alliance, and that there is no separate compact with Italy.

MR. GLADSTONE'S RECOVERY.

Mr. Gladstone is recovering.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Director of the Observatory reports that last night a slight earthquake was felt in Bolinao.

Six vessels of the Northern Squadron left Chefoo this week for Nagasaki. The last time a Chinese fleet did so was in 1886.

MR. GEO. C. MILN leaves by the mail to-morrow and will be glad to see all friends who may come along to give "a tip of their flippers."

An exceptionally good crop of rice is promised at Fochow, says the *Echo*, and judging from the strength shown in the stalk, it will be almost double the amount of last year's gathering.

The positions of the men-of-war on the Yangtze have been altered. When the *Fukuh* came down river, says the *Mercury* of Monday last, the *Incandescent* and *Porpoise* were at Kiangling, there were two men-of-war at Wuhu, the *Albatross* and *Archer* were at Nanjing, and a British gunboat and the *Palor* at Chinkiang. The *Albatross*, with Admiral Richards on board, returned to Shanghai on the 30th ult., and left next day for Nagasaki.

Twenty-four Chinese boarding house runners who rushed on board the *Mongkut* without the captain's permission were arrested by P.S. Niven and brought before the Magistrate to-day, when they were fined \$5 each.

The other day H.B.M. Consul and the Customs Commissioner at Wuhu gave a grand feast to the Chinese soldiers who have been guarding and patrolling the Concession ever since the riot, as a reward for their vigilance.

St. Peter's Seamen's Church.—The Mission steam-launch *Day Spring* will call alongside vessels hoisting code pennant C between 9 and 10.30 a.m. on Sunday to convey men ashore to the 11 o'clock service, returning about 12.30.

On the anniversary of Coronation Day, the white ensign fluttered on the masts of the men-of-war in port at Shanghai, representing no less than eight nationalities. Such an occurrence is, a contemporary believes, unique in the history of Shanghai.

We understand that Commodore Church is to pay an official visit to Canton shortly, when the Government will afford him an opportunity of inspecting the works for maintaining the opening of the Back Reach, if his official engagements will permit.

The glorious Fourth was celebrated in no half-horse style to-day. The great Kee-chong hong, was not short of its glories to any extent, the U. S. Exile tried in to keep dry everywhere except at the Hotel, where the milk-milk sacrament was administered to several thousand communicants "on the never."

We understand that the slow state of the market at present, says the *Fookow Echo*, has greatly discouraged tea manufacturers in the country, and accordingly some establishments have closed their doors for the season. A wise step, we think, could not be taken. It is no use their making tea if they are going to lose money by it.

A few days ago, says the *Hupao*, there was an explosion at the cartridge factory at Wochang. As there was but little powder on the premises and the building was of iron, the damage extended to only one apartment. Two men were killed outright, while a third was so badly wounded that there is only slight hope of his recovery.

That harbinger of peace and goodwill, Mr. John Swire, the head of the firm of Butterfield and Swire, is to pay the Far East another visit next month. It is a noteworthy fact that this eminent gentleman's visits to the East, although few and far between, invariably result in the removal of all unnecessary friction connected with the extensive commercial ramifications of his firm.

At Singapore on the 24th ult. the body of a European named William Brown, a marine engineer, was found floating in the water, with a pocket handkerchief filled with stones tied about his neck, just off the Esplanade. Deceased was about 45 years of age and once kept a school in Hongkong, with a retired shipmaster, to coach marine engineers and officers, by many of whom he was known as "Navy Brown."

We learn that Capt. F. de Vere P. Creighton, late 4th Batt. King's Shropshire Light Infantry, has been appointed Commander of the Johore Forces, in succession to Capt. C. C. Newland who has ceased to hold that appointment. Capt. Creighton has for a year past been Chief Military Instructor in the Royal Military College, Bangalore, and did not renew his agreement. He will shortly take up his military duties at Johore.

The thunder storm which passed over Hongkong this morning was very nearly being made responsible for the blotting out of some of the brightest lights in the community. Whilst some ten or twelve Peak residents were waiting for the tram a flash of lightning waited round almost in their midst, but luckily found a better conductor in the iron railings close to which they were standing, and thence flowed serenely on to 'earth' without doing further damage.

The *N. C. Daily News* hears from the river ports that a good deal of surprise was felt at H.K. Chang Chik-tung's coolness towards Admiral Richards. The Admiral noticed through Mr. Chris. Gardner that he proposed to have the honour of calling on the Viceroy, and Chang Chik-tung sent back word that he should be very glad to see him, but could not return his call. At Nanjing, however, Admiral Richards called on the Viceroy, H.E. Lu Kun-yl, and the call was duly returned. It is a great stain on British prestige, that nothing, so far as is known, has been done about the barbarous murders at Wusueh.

At the Magistrate to-day, Mr. Morrison, of the water and drainage department, was charged with assaulting a contractor named Ng Shih Yu. Prosecutor and one of his coolies said that Yu went to him with a paper bearing certain numbers of houses, and said he had permission to lay pipes to them. Defendant tore up the paper, his complaint on the chest, and threw a brick at him, breaking a bottle worth \$5. Defendant said Yu bothered him when he was busy, and he pushed him away, causing him to fall over a seat. He did not throw anything, but plaintiff picked up a stone to throw. Two witnesses corroborated. Defendant was fined \$1.

DURING the erection of the telegraph line through the province of Hunan, says the *Hupao*, the work was stopped in the Tainan district. The people, beguiled by the rumour that telegraph lines were injurious to the general welfare of the country, rose against the workmen. About 50 poles were torn up and burned. The new office was entirely wrecked. The official deputy having charge of the materials was severely wounded and the soldiers and workmen all suffered more or less at the hands of the mob. The case has been reported to the Viceroy Chang Chik-tung and Sheng Tsatol, of Chefoo, the Director-General of the Imperial Chinese Telegraphic Administration.

The unobjectionable expression of opinion may well be taken to heart by not a few investors in Hongkong stocks—we name no names. The *Siam Gazette* says:—After a protracted hearing, the *Gold Fields of Siam* was decided last Saturday (June 3rd) in favour of the Company, the jury adding the following terse rider to their verdict:—In recording, and finding, on the various issues submitted to us, we wish to mark our sense of the utter mismanagement of the entire undertaking, which has allowed such a state of affairs to continue as has been revealed by the evidence before the Court, and we further wish to emphasize our sense of the complete neglect of the interests of the shareholders of the Company by the Manager, the Secretary, and particularly the Board of Directors.

We hear that Messrs. Russell & Co.'s valuable property on Shamen, Canton, is in the market, and that the Imperial Maritime Customs are likely to become the purchasers of it.

At Kluikang some surprise has been felt at the twenty-two young lady missionaries being ordered back to Taitung, from which the *N. C. Daily News* gathers that not much damage was done to their homes there. But they have no man with them, no experience, no knowledge of the place or language, and no calling there, for they might just as well study Chinese in safety at Kluikang. The Roman Catholic sisters have gone back to the city, but they are nearer at hand, they have experience, and there may be trouble when the babies they look after are brought in for inspection and payment.

At the Magistracy to-day a case came before Mr. Wio which looks like slave-dealing pure and simple, though it is not yet certain where the guile lies, if guilt it is. Ip Yung was charged with unlawfully and by fraudulent means sending Chan Yik Chun out of the colony. Three years ago, according to prosecutor's story, the parties met up the country, and defendant said he could get plaintiff plenty of work at \$23 a month at his trade in a new port called Juk Mei Chan. They came to Hongkong, with four others, and went on board a steamer. Then defendant went ashore to get food, telling the others to wait till he came back. They did so, but in the meantime the ship sailed, and reached Dell. Having no ticket, plaintiff was as 'usual' sent to a tobacco planter. He did not want to plant tobacco, being a seaman; so after 44 days he absconded, and got back to Hongkong in October, 1889. He never saw defendant again until yesterday. The case was remanded for a week.

It was not last night, and inclined to rain, and "Richelleu" hasn't a single ballet dancer in it from beginning to end, but nevertheless it is a large crowd of Masonic friends and of the admirers of Mr. Geo. C. Miln, the greatest Shakespearean exponent who has ever visited Hongkong, "rallied round" him at the Theatre Royal on the occasion of his farewell benefit. Our criticism of the last production of Lytton's great drama stands good for that of last night so far as the leading characters are concerned, but many members of the original company are now on their way to Australia, and their places had to be filled from the ranks of local amateurs. And considering the short time allowed them to learn their parts, considerable credit is due for the very satisfactory form displayed. At the close of the fourth act Mr. Miln responded to a most enthusiastic call, and returned thanks to his Masonic brethren and the rest of the public. He expressed his satisfaction at having been the first man to introduce Shakespearean drama into Japan, but had to regret that his enterprise had been so unremunerative. The Company will leave for Singapore to-morrow and we wish Mr. Miln and every member of the most talented Company *bon voyage* and fairer weather in the future than they have experienced in Far Cathay.

CHINA'S COMMERCE.

SHANGHAI.

Mr. Commissioner Bredon of Shanghai, in his trade report for 1890, says:—

The year 1890 ranks among 'good years,' though perhaps not quite at the top of the list. The foreign merchants did exceptionally well in piece goods, and the tea merchants, although they did a trade of small volume, did it with more than the usual profit. The year came to with a mild winter; a cool summer, which proved exceptionally unhealthy both to natives and foreigners, followed a wholesome autumn brought the year to a pleasant close. Rice became dear in the spring, and export and re-export of it from Shanghai was prohibited except under special permit. However, the year's crop turned out a very good one, and food grew abundant and cheap. The local cotton crop was the best seen here for many years. It seems, judging from export figures, to have been utilized locally.

High exchange during the summer and autumn stimulated the import trade, for it made Chinese provide in advance for expected later demands. Increased import was to some extent followed by increased trade, but at the same time stocks in hand at the end of the year were heavy, and I fear must expect to have some reaction this coming year. Piece goods figures are generally higher, especially in light and grey kinds. Metals also represent an import in some items much increased. Spelter shows a figure large beyond what there seems any reason for. I am told it is being used in cash coinage. The increase in the import of cotton yarn, especially Indian, is almost marvellous. A gentleman, for whose opinion in such matters I have much respect, writes that he makes the increased consumption about \$4,000 bales, or 447,000 piculs. Kerosene oil, the deliveries during the year show an increase of 350,000 cases. American and a diminution of 55,000 Russian. I am told that "these statistics give a wrong impression about the progress Russian oil is making. Owing to irregularity or inadequacy of supplies during the early months of the year, stocks of Russian oil were at different times, and on one occasion for fully a month, entirely exhausted, thus forcing the usual buyers of Russian refiners to become supporters of American. Supply had been equal to the occasion, Russian deliveries last year would have been 150,000 cases more than they were, and American no much less." The prejudice formed against Russian oil on account of inferiority in packing of 'initiator' shipments is rapidly being overcome by the more secure casing, with which consumers are now becoming familiar.

There is a very serious falling off in both tea and silk. As to the former, such can hardly be said to have come upon us unawares. The supply to London was only about half and our export to Russia about one-sixth, of our 1889 figures. Why China tea has been getting out of favour in England has been freely discussed, and I could add little to what has been already said. Russia is more and more every year drawing its supply direct from Hankow. North America still seems to continue our customers, with about an average demand. The quality of the black tea was, probably a little above the average of recent years, especially in the cheaper kinds. Of green teas, much the same may be said. Pignons were a more even crop, fewer bad crops appearing on the market.

The silk export has been decidedly unsatisfactory. Some think the high exchange had a bad effect—it possibly at least delayed the opening of the market, but others say the European demand was small. The relics of speculative purchases in the Paris Exhibition year seem to be still depressing the French market. American financial troubles, and the rise of cotton fabrics in the estimation of the world of fashion, tends to a similar result elsewhere. The quality of the 1890 crop was moderate. Waste silk is still in demand, for something like it, seems to make a special want for different kinds at different times. The end of the year left a stock of perhaps 12,000 bales of reeled silk on the local market or within reach.

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